



BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1996



OUR SOCIETY BENEFITS FROM NEW INTEREST IN BUNCOM

The renewed awareness of Buncom by our neighbors in the Rogue Valley and beyond has generated more interest in our preservation project and the success of the Society. It also has meant more interest in sharing memories of Buncom and artifacts of the old days.

The success of the Centennial last May -- particularly the turnout of 2,500 people -- has led to recognition that these folks out in the boondocks must be a bit more than country bumpkins! Not that we reject the idea of being country folk; in fact, we're proud of it! After all, that's what those of us who live in the Buncom area are here for! To get away from the complexity of cities and suburbs. Nonetheless, it is flattering for all of us to be recognized for caring about our past and wanting to make the most of it.

Within the last couple of months we were pleased to receive a Buncom-postmarked post card and a copy of a 1917 birth certificate of an early Buncom resident, courtesy of Gertrude Herrmann. And Medford photographer Dave Hawkins sent us a print of a photo shoot he did using Buncom as a backdrop.

We've also been invited to work with the Southern Oregon Historical Society on preparing a brochure about historical sites and programs in Jackson County.

But most important is the support and help from all of you, our members, in preserving Buncom and its history.



This photo gives new meaning to our parade signs, "I cruised Buncom"! Photo taken and donated by Dave Hawkins, Medford.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUILDING REPAIRS?

In the last newsletter we reported our plans to use the Centennial profit to fix up the Bunkhouse and Cookhouse, and said we hoped to have pictures in this newsletter. I'm sure some of you chuckled at our optimism. It's going to happen -- it's just taking longer than we anticipated.

We have bids, and surprise! They are higher than we expected, and the scope of work needs to be redefined. So it looks like we're not going to get as far as we wanted, but we hope there will be some visible evidence before long!

HOW ABOUT ANOTHER ENTRY IN THE PEAR BLOSSOM PARADE?

Those of us who marched to represent Buncom in the last Pear Blossom Parade in Medford had so much fun we're thinking about doing it again! With a lot more lead time before the parade in early April, we can really put together an entry that will knock their socks off! It's still early, but we'd like to get your ideas on what we might do and how many of you might be interested. If you'd like to contribute, call any of the directors.

Last year, our President drove a tractor provided by the Country Farm Center while about 10 members carried signs promoting the Centennial.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1997

The new year is approaching, and that means it is time to renew memberships for 1997. As always, it's \$5.00, tax-deductible, per family. In return you get this quarterly newsletter, a new certificate, and you play a role in the preservation of Historic Buncom. Please see the renewal form attached.

Also, think about giving Buncom Historical Society memberships for Christmas. We'll get certificates to you as quickly as we can so you will have them in time to give as gifts.

Our membership stands at 261, an all-time high. Help us keep up this high level of support for Buncom and the Society!

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PLACE OF BIRTH *Jackson*

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

Registered No. *4*

City of *Jackson* (No. *1*)

FULL NAME OF CHILD *Geneva Alberta Pence*

If child is not named, make supplemental report

Sex of Child *Female* Twin, Triplet, or other? *No* and, in order of birth *1*

DATE OF BIRTH *Feb 25 1917*

FATHER *M. F. Pence* MOTHER *O. Middlebush*

Residence *Buncom OR*

Color of hair *white* Age at last birthday *26*

Birthplace *Oregon* Occupation *Miner*

Color of hair *white* Age at last birthday *26*

Birthplace *Kansas* Occupation *housewife*

Number of children born to this mother, including present birth *4* Number of children of this mother now living, including present birth *4* Was previous birth spaced *No*

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was *born alive* at *6 P.M.* on the date above stated.

(Signature) *W. H. Hickman M.D.*

Address *Crested Butte, OR*

Filed *1917*

* When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth. State names added from a supplemental report.

A LOOK BACK AT 1996

1996 was a busy year for the Society. Here's a look back at our activities and accomplishments:

-- Our Society marked its 5th anniversary in April.

-- We put new tarpaper on the Bunkhouse and Cookhouse roofs last Spring.

-- We cleaned out the debris from the Cookhouse.

-- Jackson County Roads and Parks Services erected "Historic Buncom" signs near the buildings.

-- We marched in Medford's Pear Blossom Parade.

-- We held a work party in May to prepare for the Centennial.

-- We were visited by a Horseless Carriage Club with about 20 vintage cars and their drivers and families.

-- The Buncom Centennial was a smashing success with some 2,500 people attending. We had live music, a parade, craft and food vendors, children's activities, wagon and stagecoach rides, even a holdup and much, much more.

-- The Buncom Post Office was reopened for Centennial Day, with Jacksonville Postmaster Nick Moon and postal staff members Patty, Lisa and Martha in attendance.

-- Harley Hall, a prominent rancher and son of one of Buncom's postmasters, was Grand Marshal of the Centennial.

-- Governor Kitzhaber and the Jackson County Commissioners issued proclamations naming May 25 as Buncom Centennial Day throughout the state.

-- President Bill Clinton sent his greetings to the Society on the occasion of the Centennial.

-- Buncom and our Centennial received prominent publicity in newspapers and on radio and television.

-- Several members and friends of the Society offered their recollections and pictures of Buncom as it used to be.

-- Our Society's membership reached an all-time high of 261.

-- And best of all, after all of this activity, our Buncom remains as quiet and peaceful as it was at the beginning of the year!

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN HUKILL

Many of our members didn't know Lillian Hukill, but without her, Buncom wouldn't exist today. Lillian owned the Buncom property from 1946 until she sold it to Reeve and Lyn Hennion in 1989. She died recently in Medford.

Lillian was a fixture in the Little Applegate for many years. She lived in the house that used to stand to the south across Little Applegate Road from the Buncom buildings until it burned down in the early 1960s. Then she started the trailer complex just up Sterling Creek Road from Buncom where she lived until she had to move into an adult care home a few years ago.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President	899-7656
Lyn Hennion	
J.B. Roberts, Secretary	899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer	
Ron Marchetti	899-1263
Donna Marchetti	
Ben Fowler	899-7805
Connie Fowler	

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon.

Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>



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BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yes, please start/renew my/our membership for 1997.
Enclosed is the \$5.00 tax-deductible dues.

Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and a certificate suitable for framing

Please enter your name(s) as you would like it to appear on the Certificate and mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

Mail to: Buncom Historical Society
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